

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of transacting business in conjunction with a sale of mobile devices, the method comprising the steps of:
 - shipping at least a first mobile device to a first end user and at least a second mobile device to a second end user different from the first end user, the first mobile device and the second mobile device having generally a same hardware and software configuration during shipping;
 - maintaining on at least one server coupled to a network configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices;
 - upon receipt of the first mobile device and the second mobile device by the first end user and the second end user, respectively, powering up the first mobile device and the second mobile device; and
 - upon being powered up, the first mobile device and the second mobile device each automatically connecting to the at least one server via the network;
 - downloading first configuration data and second configuration data, respectively, from the at least one server, the first configuration data and the second configuration data being generally different; and automatically configuring themselves based on the first configuration data and the second configuration data.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices includes the steps of:
 - storing in memory on the server an identification code for uniquely identifying each mobile device; wherein the configuration data corresponds to the identification code.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of automatically connecting to the at least one server includes the steps of:
 - transmitting to the server an identification code of the respective mobile device; and
 - retrieving by the server configuration data based on the transmitted identification code.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising a gateway for establishing remote communications between each mobile device and the server.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the gateway is an internet connection.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the gateway is an intranet connection.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
configuring the mobile device manually in the event of a failure of the automatic configuration.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of configuring the mobile device manually further comprises the steps of:
creating encrypted data, wherein the encrypted data includes an identifier, a time/date window, and configuration data;
entering the encrypted data into the mobile device;
verifying that the identification code and the time/date window relative to the particular mobile device; and
using the configuration data to configure the mobile device, wherein the configuration is conditioned upon the verification of the identifier and the time/date window.
9. A method for maintaining configuration data on a server coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:
storing in memory on the server different configuration data for a plurality of different mobile devices;
the server receiving, via the network, requests for the different configuration data from the different mobile devices, respectively; and
the server providing, via the network, the different configuration data to the different mobile devices, respectively.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of storing in memory on the server different configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices includes storing in memory an identification code for uniquely identifying each mobile device, and each configuration data corresponds to a respective identification code.
11. The method of claim 9, further comprising a gateway for establishing remote communications between each mobile device and the server.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein the gateway is an internet connection.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the gateway is an intranet connection.

14. A self configuring mobile device, comprising:
a discovery module for discovering device specific information on a wireless computer network;
a communication module for transmitting data to and receiving data from the wireless computer network, wherein the communications module obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device;
an update module operatively coupled to the communications module for querying the at least one device to obtain a configuration update; and
a configuration module for configuring the mobile device, wherein the configuration module implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device to a custom configuration.

15. The self configuring mobile device of claim 14, further comprising a user input module for entering data corresponding to the configuration of the mobile device .

16. The self configuring mobile device of claim 15, wherein the user input module is a keypad.

17. The self configuring mobile device of claim 15, wherein the user input module is a bar code reader.

18. The self configuring mobile device of claim 14, wherein the self configuring mobile device initially is configured in a generic state.

19. A wireless communication system, comprising:
at least one system backbone;
at least one host computer coupled to the system backbone;

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a wireless remote station coupled to the at least one system backbone; and the self configuring mobile device of claim 14, wherein the self configuring mobile device and the at least one host computer are operatively configured to wirelessly communicate configuration information therebetween, and the self configuring mobile device changes a first configuration setting to a second configuration based on a plurality of configuration data received from the at least one host computer, said second configuration setting being specific to a particular environment.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:

a local station coupled to the at least one system backbone and to at least one remote communication link, wherein the wireless remote station is coupled to the at least one system backbone through the remote communication link and the local station.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one remote link is an internet connection.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one remote link is an intranet connection.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the local station and the wireless remote station are routers.

24. The system of claim 19, wherein the environment is a computer network.

25. The system of claim 19, wherein the environment is a computer management system for managing business operations.

26. The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one host computer includes a memory and a database stored in the memory.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the database comprises:

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an identification entry for uniquely identifying each self configuring mobile device in the system; and

a configuration entry for specifying the configuration of the self configuring mobile device, wherein the configuration entry corresponds to the identification entry.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the identification entry is selected from the group consisting of a Media Access Control (MAC) address, a device serial number, and a Central Processing Unit (CPU) identification code.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the database further comprises at least one of an operating software entry, a diagnostic data entry, a registration data entry and a device capabilities entry.